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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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UPWARD TREND IN LUPINE SEED PRODUCTION CONTINUES AS
ESTIMATED 1947 CROP EXCEEDS 48 MILLION POUNDS X

A record production of 48.3 million pounds of lupine seed is forecast this year for Georgia, Alabama, and Florida by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Since 1943, when only 5.1 million pounds of seed were harvested, the use of lupines as a soil-improving and winter-cover crop has spread rapidly each succeeding year into suitable areas of these States. This year's production of lupine is likely to exceed that of any other winter-cover legume crop except Austrian Winter peas. It compares with 38.9 million pounds of seed produced last year, and the 1943-45 average of 8.6 million pounds. Growers indicated that 97.4 percent, or 47,042,000 pounds of the 1947 crop was blue-lupine seed, and 2.6 percent, or 1,258,000 pounds, was sweet-lupine seed.

Lupine plantings in the fall of 1946 increased sharply — from 50 to 100 percent over the previous year and the use of lupines spread into new areas of the southern two-thirds of Georgia and Alabama. Although a slightly smaller portion than last year of the total lupine acreage was harvested for seed, it is estimated that 57,000 acres were saved for seed this year as compared with 37,000 acres in 1946, and 9,533 acres the average. Survey data indicate that in Georgia about 34 percent of the total lupine acreage was harvested for seed this year compared with 38 percent last year. In Alabama the percentages are 39 this year and 40 last year.

Yields per acre were lower than last year in each of the three States. At 847 pounds the 1947 average yield was 19 percent smaller than last year's record of 1,051 pounds, and compares with the average of 919 pounds. Shortages of harvesting equipment, poor stands, disease, and unfavorable weather during the winter were reported as the reasons for the lower yields.

The table below shows the harvested acreages in the three principal producing States, indicated yields per acre, and production of clean seed for 1947, with comparisons.

State	Acreage harvested			Yield per acre			Prod. of clean seed		
	Average:	1946	Indi- cated:	Average:	1946	Indi- cated:	Average:	1946	Indi- cated:
	1943-45	1946	1947	1943-45	1946	1947	1943-45	1946	1947
	Acres			Pounds - clean			Thousand pounds		
Georgia	4,733	19,000	32,000	897	1,100	900	4,200	20,900	28,800
Florida	2,400	9,000	12,000	820	800	650	1,967	7,200	7,800
Alabama	2,400	9,000	13,000	1,072	1,200	900	2,433	10,800	11,200
U.S.	9,533	37,000	57,000	919	1,051	847	8,600	38,900	48,300

Harvesting of lupine seed averaged 5 to 15 days later this year than last year. Growers indicated that they started to harvest the crop this year about May 23 in Florida, May 31 in Georgia, and June 2 in Alabama.

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Prices received by growers for 1947-crop seed ranged from 3 to 5 cents a pound clean basis, depending on quality and germination. A disease tentatively identified as anthracnose, which affects the germination of the seed, is a serious factor for the first year since lupines were grown on an extensive scale in the South. The average prices to growers at 4 cents for good quality blue-lupine seed, and 5 cents for sweet-lupine seed compare with 4.85 cents paid to growers in 1946 for blue-lupine. The Production and Marketing Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture is again offering a seed loan program on blue-lupine seed. The loan rate is 4 cents a pound for top-grade seed produced in 1947. Lower rates will apply in proportion to quality. To be eligible for loans, the seed must be stored in approved public warehouses or other suitable storage space. The seed must be at least 99 percent pure, have a germination of 90 percent or more, and contain not more than 14 percent moisture. The loans will be available to producers from the time of harvest through August 15, 1947. Loans will mature on demand, but not later than September 1, 1947.

Carry-over of old seed on farms is estimated at 1,100,000 pounds. This is the largest carry-over of record and compares with practically no carry-over in 1946, with 40,000 pounds in 1945, and 127,000 pounds in 1944. Carry-over of this seed by dealers and the Government on June 30 will be given in a report on field seed early in August.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

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